

The United States Mission to the OSCE

Office of the Public Affairs Advisor

Obersteingasse 11/1 ■ A-1190 Vienna, Austria

Tel (+43-1) 313-39-3421 ■ FAX (+43-1) 368-6385

Rabbi Andrew Baker -

Rabbi Andrew Baker is Director of International Jewish Affairs for the American Jewish Committee. In this position he is responsible for maintaining and developing AJC's network of relationships with Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora and addressing the accompanying international issues and concerns.

From 1992 until 2000, he served as AJC's Director of European Affairs. In that capacity he has been responsible for the development and implementation of various exchange programs sponsored by the American Jewish Committee for emerging political leaders in Germany, in Poland and in other Central and Eastern European countries. He has helped to organize a number of international conferences on a variety of subjects in cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research and other European-based organizations. He was recently awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his work in German-Jewish relations.

Rabbi Baker has played an active role in efforts to come to terms with Holocaust-era moral and material claims. He is a Vice President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Jewish umbrella organization that has worked on restitution issues for half a century. He is a member of Government Commissions in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia that have been established to address the claims of Holocaust Victims. He is a member of the National Historical Commission of Lithuania and has been a key player in negotiating the return of Torah scrolls and Jewish communal properties from that country. He has spoken on the subject of Jewish property restitution, antisemitism and related issues at the U.S. State Department, the House Banking Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and he has addressed the leaders of NATO aspirant nations at summit meetings in Bucharest and Riga.

Rabbi Baker previously served as AJC's Washington Area Director. He is a past President of the Interfaith Conference of Washington and a former Commissioner on the District of Columbia Human Rights Commission. He was also the only non-congregational rabbi to serve as President of the Washington Board of Rabbis.

A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Rabbi Baker received a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a Masters Degree and Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. He is married and the father of four children.